

REMARKS

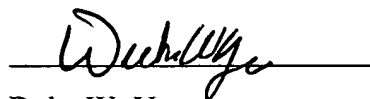
Claims 1-18 and 20-30 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 3, 11, 20, 22 and 30 have been amended herewith. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for taking the time to conduct a telephone interview on this case, which occurred on 02/11/2004. Applicants' attorney explained differences between the claimed invention and the cited references, and specifically contrasted Applicants' Figure 4, steps 404 and 406 with Saunders' Figure 2, steps 18, 20 and 22. The discussion then moved to claim clarity, and Applicants are amending the claims herewith as a result of such discussion, in accordance with the Examiner's concerns.

It is respectfully urged that the subject application is patentable over the cited references and is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the Examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

DATE: 3/1/04

Respectfully submitted,



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